www.safetech.co.za

In Touch

EHS Newsletter
October 2017

WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO ASSIST OUR CLIENTS THAT INCLUDE:

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training

HWSETA
HW592A1000508

sanas Inspection Body
OH0049

DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by Lee Rands

Chemical Identification and Control

The proper identification and control of chemicals is one of the most critical components of a safety system. Where a company buys bulk and transfers chemicals into smaller containers, precautions should be taken to ensure that the secondary containers are clean and properly labelled.

- Always make sure chemical bottles, including secondary containers such as spray bottles and dispensers, are marked with a clear and legible label.
- Ensure you use an easily identifiable label that clearly denotes any hazards of the product within the container.
- Ensure you know about the various chemicals you utilize and check the original label or SDS sheet for information of reactivity with other substances.
- Once a secondary container is designated for a certain chemical, never utilize it for a different chemical component.

This rule also applies at home when using household cleaners:

- ✕ Do not mix bleach and ammonia.
- ✕ Do not mix bleach and acids (vinegar, some glass cleaners, some toilet bowl cleaners, lime/calcium/rust removers).
- ✕ Do not use two drain cleaners together, or use one right after the other.

All these combinations have the potential to create very hazardous vapours.

http://safetytoolboxtopics.com/Hazard-Communications/chemical-identification-and-control.html

Illegal Removal of Asbestos Building Products - Asbestos Regulations(GNR155 of 10 February 2002)

Because of the long latency period of asbestos exposure, South Africa has not yet seen the full negative health impact of removing or demolishing asbestos containing material by Contractors.

Many buildings built between the 1950s and 60s being refurbished today contain asbestos cement building material (in roof sheets, floor tiles, window sills and / or ceiling boards). The concern is that working with these materials unsafely today may result in serious health effects or even death in 30 to 40 years.

The Asbestos Regulation, 2002 (GNR155), requires demolition of asbestos containing material to be conducted only by companies registered by the Chief Inspector, as Registered Asbestos Contractors.

Should the correct procedures not be followed, the DOL can issue a prohibition notice and stop all work on site. Employers should also make and maintain a written inventory of the location of the asbestos in a workplace, building, plant or premises. When in doubt, handle building material as if it contains asbestos. Alternatively have it analysed before demolition, this will protect everyone's health. A list of Registered Asbestos Contractors is available from the DOL (www.labour.gov.za).

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OCT	9th & 10th	Incident Investigation
	20th	Introduction to the OHS Act
	24th & 25th	HIRA **
NOV	6th	Hazardous Chemical Substances
	10th	Fire Prevention
	20th – 22nd	SHE Reps**
	30th Nov – 1st Dec	HIRA**
DEC	4th – 6th	SHE for Supervisors**
	7th & 8th	Advanced OHS Act
	11th	Construction Regulations

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Southern Office

PO Box 27607
Greenacres
Port Elizabeth
6057

Tel: +27 (0)41 365 6846
Fax: +27 (0)41 365 2123

info@safetech.co.za

Northern Office

PO Box 80171
Doornpoort
Pretoria
0017

Tel: +27 (0)82 4111 571
Fax: +27 (0)86 6579 864

carlita.westoby@safetech.co.za

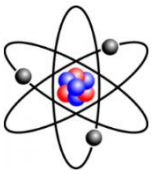
HWSETA
HW592A1000508

sanas Inspection Body
OH0049

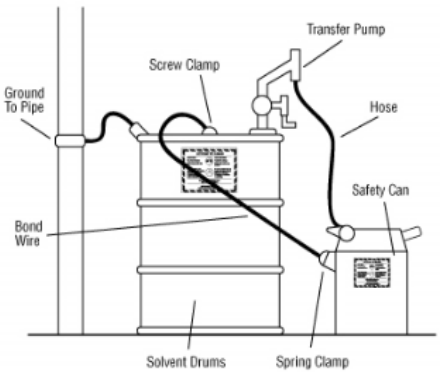
DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Refer to www.sanas.co.za for Schedule of Accreditation

Static Electricity – Grounding and Bonding



When liquids are poured, pumped, filtered, agitated, stirred or flow through pipes, electric charges can build up. This is called static electricity. Even when liquids are transported or handled in non-conductive containers, something rubbing the outside surface of the container may cause a static charge to build up in the liquid. The amount of charge that develops depends, in part, on how much liquid is involved and how fast it is flowing, being agitated or stirred.



Do all containers need to be grounded?

It is only necessary to bond those containers that conduct electricity, such as those made from metal or special, conductive plastics.

If a container is made from a material that does not conduct electricity, (polyethylene plastic or glass) bonding or grounding is not necessary, in fact grounding the container will not have any effect .

If a liquid is conductive, filling or handling plastic or other non-conducting containers can also be hazardous. The splashing and turbulence of the liquid in the container can cause a static electric charge to build up in the liquid or on ungrounded, conductive parts on the container. A spark with enough energy to ignite a vapour / air mixture in its flammable range can originate from the liquid or from the container.

There have been many serious injuries and fatalities due to flammable liquid explosions caused by static electricity.

Why is it important to Bond and Ground Containers?

To prevent the build up of static electricity and prevent sparks from causing a fire, it is important to bond metal dispensing and receiving containers together before pouring. Bonding is done by making an electrical connection from one metal container to the other.

The best way to bond containers is to securely attach a special metal bonding strap or wire to both containers. Some liquid transfer pumps have self-bonding hoses. Bonding can also be done by keeping a solid metal-to-metal contact between the containers themselves or between a metal container and a conducting nozzle. These latter two methods are usually not reliable because a good electrical contact is often hard to make and maintain during the entire transfer.

In a flammable liquid storage and dispensing area, dispensing drums should be grounded. This is done by connecting a container to an already grounded object that will conduct electricity i.e. a buried metal plate, a metallic underground gas piping system, metal water pipes or a grounded, metal building framework. Bonding both containers and grounding one of them "drains off" static charges and prevents the discharge of sparks.

All grounding and bonding connections must be bare metal to bare metal and all dirt, paint, rust or corrosion must be removed from points of contact.

When does bonding and grounding need to take place?

Bonding and grounding are needed when dispensing flammable or hot combustible liquids from storage drums to smaller electrically conductive containers. Similarly, whenever you transfer these liquids between conductive containers in any work areas e.g. when filling or draining dip tanks, mixers, rinse tanks or other equipment, bond both containers together and ground one of them. Check bonding and grounding connections regularly to ensure they are in good condition.

http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/flammable_static.html

Safetech's Annual Shutdown
this year, will be from
Friday, 15th December 2017 - Tuesday, 9th January 2018

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